

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 Claim 1. (original) A method comprising:
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second
3 web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a
4 first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores
5 the client information as a client record in a database;
6 the first web server directing a client to access a resource at
7 the second Web-Server;
8 said resource encapsulating information about a location of the
9 client record in the database;
10 the second web server decapsulating the location and retrieving
11 the client record from the database; and
12 the second web server using the client record in conjunction with
13 a second user tracking mechanism.
- 1 Claim 2. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first
2 and the second user tracking mechanisms use cookies for storing the
3 user client information.
- 1 Claim 3. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first
2 web server authenticates the client, and the client record includes
3 user authentication data enabling the second web server to use a common
4 sign-on with the sign-on of the first web server.
- 1 Claim 4. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first
2 web server stores within the client record at least one parameter which
3 determines at least one characteristic of at least one page to be sent
4 to the client by the second web server.
- 1 Claim 5. (previously presented) A method as recited in 4,
2 wherein said at least one parameter includes at least one user
3 preference.
- 1 Claim 6. (original) A method as recited in 5, wherein said at
2 least one user preference is related to at least one detected
3 purchasing habit.
- 1 Claim 7. (previously presented) A method comprising:
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second
3 web server in a second DNS domain,
4 enabling said first and second web servers to share cookie

5 information;
6 coordinating cookies across said first and second domains;
7 storing a client record in a database by the first web server;
8 and
9 creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates
10 information about a location of the client record in the database.

1 Claim 8. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the
2 step of coordinating is performed by a cookie coordinator accessible to
3 said first and second Web-Servers.

1 Claim 9. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, further
2 comprising providing a cookie coordinator accessible to said first and
3 second Web-Servers to perform the step of coordinating.

1 Claim 10. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein
2 the step of enabling includes the first web server setting a first
3 cookie having a first identity and the second web server setting a
4 second cookie having a second identity, and the step of coordinating
5 maps the first and second identities to a third identity shared across
6 said first and second domains.

1 Claim 11. (original) An apparatus comprising:
2 means for employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and
3 a second web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web
4 server uses a first user tracking mechanism to collect client
5 information and stores the client information as a client record in a
6 database;
7 means for the first web server directing a client to access a
8 resource at the second web server;
9 means for said resource encapsulating information about a
10 location of the client record in the database;
11 means for the second web server decapsulating the location and
12 retrieving the client record from the database; and
13 means for the second web server using the client record in
14 conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 12. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a
2 computer usable medium having computer readable program code means
3 embodied therein for causing coordination of a first user tracking
4 mechanism in a first web server and a second user tracking mechanism in

5 a second web-server, the computer readable program code means in said
6 article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means
7 for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 1.

1 Claim 13. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a
2 computer usable medium having computer readable program code means
3 embodied therein for causing coordination of a first user tracking
4 mechanism in a first web server and a second user tracking mechanism in
5 a second web-server, the computer readable program code means in said
6 article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means
7 for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 7.

1 Claim 14. (original) A method comprising:
2 employing a first user tracker in a first domain, and a second
3 user tracker in a second domain, wherein the first user tracker uses a
4 first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores
5 the client information as a client record in a database;
6 the first user tracker directing a client to access a resource at
7 the second user tracker;
8 said resource encapsulating information about a location of the
9 client record in the database;
10 the second user tracker decapsulating the location and retrieving
11 the client record from the database; and
12 the second user tracker using the client record in conjunction
13 with a second user tracking mechanism.

1 Claim 15. (original) A program storage device readable by
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the
3 machine to perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps
4 comprising the steps of claim 1.

1 Claim 16. (original) A program storage device readable by
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the
3 machine to perform method steps for using cookies, said method steps
4 comprising the steps of claim 7.

1 Claim 17. (original) A computer program product comprising a
2 computer usable medium having computer readable program code means
3 embodied therein for causing tracking of users, the computer readable
4 program code means in said computer program product comprising computer

5 readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the
6 functions of claim 11.

1 Claim 18. (previously presented) A method comprising:
2 employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second
3 web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server
4 maintains a first private cookie at a browser and the second web server
5 maintains a second private cookie at the browser;
6 accessing a cookie coordinator when the first private cookie is
7 received by the first web-server;
8 mapping a first identity in the first private cookie and a second
9 identity in the second private cookie to a single identity common
10 across the multiple domains;
11 storing a client record in a database by the first web server;
12 and
13 creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates
14 information about a location of the client record in the database.

1 Claim 19. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, further
2 comprising:
3 using the single identity to look up the identity of users across
4 the different domains, and
5 the cookie coordinator learning the mapping of the various
6 cookies that are placed independently on the browser by the different
7 servers.

1 Claim 20. (original) A program storage device readable by
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the
3 machine to perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps
4 comprising the steps of claim 18.

1 Claim 21. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:
2 a web server interface to interface with a first web server in a
3 first DNS domain and to interface a second web server in a second DNS
4 domain;
5 said first web server having:
6 a first user tracker to collect client information and
7 store client information as a client record in a cookie coordinator
8 database;
9 a redirector for the first web server to direct a client to
10 access a resource at the second web server;

11 an encapsulator for said resource to encapsulate
12 information about a location of the client record in the database; and
13 said second web server having:
14 a second user tracker for the second web server to use the
15 client record in conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism; and
16 a decapsulator for the second web server to decapsulate a
17 location and retrieve the client record from the database.

1 Claim 22. (original) A computer program product comprising a
2 computer usable medium having computer readable program code means
3 embodied therein for causing tracking of users, the computer readable
4 program code means in said computer program product comprising computer
5 readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the
6 functions of claim 21.

1 Claim 23. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 1, further comprising:
3 wherein the database is a cookie coordination database; and
4 wherein directing the client to access the resource at the second
5 Web-Server includes sending the client a link to the second Web-Server.

1 Claim 24. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 1, wherein directing the client to access the resource at the second
3 Web-Server includes sending a HTTP response code from the first Web-
4 Server configured to cause the client to be redirected to the second
5 Web-Server using HTTP redirection.

1 Claim 25. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 7, wherein the database is a cookie coordination database.

1 Claim 26. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 7, further comprising sending a HTTP response code from the first web
3 server configured to cause the client to be redirected to the second
4 web server using HTTP redirection.

1 Claim 27. (previously presented) An apparatus as recited in
2 claim 11, further comprising:
3 wherein the database is a cookie coordination database; and
4 wherein means for the first web server directing the client to
5 access the resource at the second web server includes means for sending
6 the client a link to the second web server.

1 Claim 28. (previously presented) An apparatus as recited in
2 claim 11, further comprising means for sending a HTTP response code
3 from the first web server configured to cause the client to be
4 redirected to the second web server using HTTP redirection.

1 Claim 29. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 14, further comprising:
3 wherein the database is a cookie coordination database; and
4 wherein directing the client to access the resource at the second
5 user tracker includes sending the client a link to the resource.

1 Claim 30. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 14, further comprising sending a HTTP response code from the first user
3 tracker configured to cause the client to be redirected to the second
4 user tracker using HTTP redirection.

1 Claim 31. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 18, further comprising sending a HTTP response code from the first web
3 server configured to cause the client to be redirected to the second
4 web server using HTTP redirection.

1 Claim 32. (previously presented) A apparatus as recited in
2 claim 21, wherein the redirector is configured to send a HTTP response
3 code from the first web server configured to cause the client to be
4 redirected to the second web server using HTTP redirection.